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BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

Application of Shinichi OSHIMA

"GOLF INSTRUMENT AND LABEL TO BE APPENDED THERETO"

Our Reference: Q48708

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 08/338,081 filed November 9, 1994, of Shinichi OSHIMA entitled "GOLF INSTRUMENT AND LABEL TO BE APPENDED THERETO."

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a copy of the prior application as originally filed, including the drawings and Declaration.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 3304.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence: --This is a divisional of Application No. 08/338,081 filed November 9, 1994.--

Priority is claimed from May 16, 1994, based on Japanese Application No. 6-6528. The priority document was filed in parent Application No. 08/338,081.

Cancel claims: 1-5 and 10-11.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims 4 - 20 = 0 x \$22 = \$ 0.00 Independent claims 1 - 3 = 0 x \$82 = \$ 0.00 Base Fee \$ 790.00

TOTAL FILING FEE

\$ 790.00

A check for the statutory fee of \$790 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAR & SEAS, PLLC

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Page 2

may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the Declaration is supplied, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

Also submitted herewith is a Form PTO-1449 citing each reference of record in prior application 08/338,081. A Preliminary Amendment will follow in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC Attorneys for Applicant

Robert M. Masters

Registration No. 35,603

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Golf Instrument and Label to Be Appended Thereto

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor which is labeled for indicating several functions of the golf instrument for insuring effective use thereof and a label appended to the golf article for such indication.

Prior Art

15 It is a common practice in the golf art that golf balls are provided with indications of hardness and golf clubs are provided with indications of shaft hardness for helping the golf player choose a matching golf ball or club.

Japanese U.M. Application Kokai No. 35315/1990 proposes a golf instrument in which a golf ball or club is provided at a proper position with a mark corresponding to a head speed.

Such a performance indication on the prior art golf instruments indicates only one of

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various functions associated with the golf ball or club. With such a single criterion, the golfer encounters difficultly in choosing a golf ball or club best suited for his or her skill and aim. Differently stated, prior art golf instruments do not fully indicate their

instruments do not fully indicate their functions in visible form. In fact, many golfers use golf balls and clubs which do not fully match with their skill and aim.

characterized by a single function, but by a combination of many functions. If a player chooses a golf ball or club by considering its single function, the performance of the ball or club does not always match with the skill and aim of the player. Then the player cannot take full or maximum advantage of the golf ball or club.

For enjoying a golf play, it is essential for a player to use a golf ball or club which closely matches with the skill and aim of the player, in order to take maximum advantage of the golf ball or club. There is a desire for improvement in this respect.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a golf article including a golf instrument such as a golf ball and club and a package therefor, which is labeled such that the golfer may choose the golf instrument which matches with his or her skill and aim for allowing the golfer to take full advantage of the golf instrument such as a golf ball or club.

The present invention provides a golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor. The article includes a generally rectangular indication section disposed thereon for

- indicating the performance of a golf instrument. The section is divided along longitudinal and transverse lines into a plurality of sub—sections. At least two, preferably at least four marks or indicia are formed on selected ones of the sub—sections for indicating at
- least two functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
- 25 In one preferred embodiment, the sub-

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sections are grouped into a plurality of groups each including longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub—sections. The sub—sections in one group are provided with marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. One of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

Preferably the golf instrument is a golf
ball and the golf instrument package is a box
for receiving golf balls. The performance
indicating section 4 including a plurality of
longitudinally and transversely arranged subsections where the marks are disposed is
disposed on the outer surface of the box.

The present invention also provides a label to be appended to a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor. The label includes a generally rectangular indication section disposed thereon for indicating the performance of the golf instrument. The section is divided along longitudinal and transverse lines into a plurality of sub—sections. At least two preferably at least four marks are formed on

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selected ones of the sub-sections for indicating at least two functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.

preferably the sub—sections are grouped into a plurality of groups each including longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub—sections. The sub—sections in one group are provided with marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. One of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

appended thereto according to the present invention can represent a plurality of functions of a golf ball or club in a matrix of longitudinally and transversely arranged sub—

20 sections. The performance of a golf ball or club can be expressed in terms of a plurality of functions. Then the golfer can choose an optimum golf ball or club in accordance with his or her skill and desire. The inherent functions

25 of a golf ball or club well match with the skill

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of the golfer. Then the golfer can take full advantage of the golf ball or club.

In the one preferred embodiment, the subsections are grouped into a plurality of groups each including longitudinally or transversely adjacent sub-sections, and the sub-sections in one group are provided with marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. Since one of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf ball or club, the golfer can understand that one function contains a plurality of different functional species. Since one of the marks belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species is selected, the golfer can easily choose the golf ball or club in accordance with his or her skill and aim. Then the golfer can play with the golf ball or club while taking full advantage of the golf ball or club.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a golf ball — accommodating box according to one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged plan view of a golf instrument performance indicating section on the box of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a golf ball — accommodating box according to another embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 4, 5, and 6 are enlarged plan view showing different examples of a golf instrument performance indicating section on the box of FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is a cross section of a label according to a further embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a plan view of a label according to a still further embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a golf ball box including a box body 2 for receiving a dozen of golf balls (not shown) and a cover 3 fitted over the box body 2 for covering a top opening thereof. An indication section 4 is printed or otherwise formed on the outer surface of the cover 3 for indicating the performance of a golf instrument (ball).

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function.

As best shown in FIG. 2, the section 4 is a generally rectangular block defined and delimited by a rectangular boundary line 5. section 4 is divided into a plurality of subsections 7 by longitudinal and transverse lines, for example, by three or four longitudinal lines and four or five transverse lines, typically by four longitudinal lines and five transverse lines (not shown) in the illustrated embodiment. The sub-sections 7 are arranged in a matrix of rows and columns. Each sub-section 7 is a generally square block defined and delimited by a square boundary line 6. Attached to each sub-section 7 is a mark or indicia 8 consisting of words and/or a pattern for indicating a

The plurality of sub-sections 7 are grouped into a plurality of groups or rows each including longitudinally (laterally in FIG. 2) adjacent sub-sections 7. The sub-sections 7 in one group or row are provided with marks 8 belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species. One of the marks is selected for each group or row in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument

(ball).

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More particularly, a first row or group A includes six sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the golf ball structure and indicating whether the golf ball is a thread wound ball or a two-piece ball, whether the wound ball has a liquid center or a solid center or has a balata cover or a Surlyn cover, whether the cover is a double cover or not, and whether the two-piece ball is a soft type or a spin type.

A second row or group B includes four sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the optimum head speed of the golf balls and indicating whether the head speed is high, relatively high or moderate or whether the balls are compatible with the entire range of head speed. In the embodiment of FIG. 2, the second row or group B further includes a sub-section 7 which is spaced by one sub-section from the rightmost sub-section 7 bearing the head speed mark, for indicating whether the balls are intended for professional use.

A third row or group C includes six sub-25 sections 7 to which are attached marks 8

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belonging to the golf ball feel and indicating whether the golf ball is felt very soft, soft or slightly soft when hit with the driver or putter.

5 A fourth row or group D includes five sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the spin of the golf balls upon hitting with an iron and indicating whether the spin is large, relatively large, ordinary, 10 relatively small or small.

A fifth row includes a group E of two sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the type of green targeting and a group F of three sub-sections 7 to which are attached marks 8 belonging to the golf ball trajectory. The groups E and F are separated by an empty sub-section. The two marks 8 in the sub-sections 7 of group E indicate whether the green is targeted by way of spin or height. The three marks 8 in the sub-sections 7 of group F indicate whether the driver shot follows a high, intermediate or low trajectory.

In each of the groups A to F, to show which function the golf ball has, or to distinguish the functional mark corresponding to

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the ball from the remaining functional marks, the sub-section 7 where the functional mark corresponding to the ball is formed is colored in a color different from the remainders. example, the sub-section 7 bearing the functional mark corresponding to the ball is colored yellow while the remaining sub-sections in the same row or group are colored white. this way, a selected sub-section or mark is distinguished from the remaining sub-sections or marks for each group, thereby indicating the ball structure that the relevant balls have, the recommended head speed, whether or not the balls are for professional use, the feel upon driver or putter hitting, the spin upon iron hitting, the way of green targeting, and the trajectory of driver shot.

Since various functions characterizing the golf ball are displayed, the golfer can choose a proper golf ball by taking into account all these functions rather than a single one of them. Since the golfer can fully understand the ball performance from various aspects, the golfer can choose an optimum golf ball which closely matches with the golfer's own skill and

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aim. Then the golfer can take maximum advantage of the golf ball on playing.

The performance of a golf ball is classified into groups of several functions and each function is divided into a plurality of different functional species. The performance of a given golf ball is represented by a combination of selected functional species or marks from several functions or groups. Then on choosing a golf ball, the golfer can understand that the golf ball has various factors and understand the functional position of the golf ball among various types of golf balls. Therefore the golfer can choose a golf ball which matches with the golfer's ability.

Since a plurality of square sub—sections

7 are defined in the performance indicating
section 4 in longitudinal and transverse
directions, and since the function indicating
marks or signs 8 consisting of a catchword or
symbolic drawing are formed in the sub—sections

7, the performance of a given golf ball and its
position are readily acknowledged as compared
with the literal description of the performance
of a golf ball.

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the invention. A rectangular box 1 capable of receiving three golf balls (not shown) has an openable upper end. On one outside surface of the box is formed or appended a section 4 for indicating the performance of a golf instrument. As best shown in FIGS. 4 to 6, in the section 4, a plurality of sub—sections 7 are defined in longitudinal and transverse directions. In the illustrated embodiment, the section 4 includes three rows of laterally arranged sub—sections 7.

Unlike the embodiment of FIG. 2, the subsections 7 in this embodiment are provided with

only functional marks 8 indicating the ball
structure, professional use, optimum head speed,
feel on driver shot, feel on putter shot, spin
on iron shot, green targeting way, and driver
shot trajectory. Those marks indicating

different function species belonging to a common
function, that is, marks which are not

Also in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 3 to 6, the golfer can readily and surely choose a golf ball which matches with the golfer's own

coincident with a given golf ball are omitted.

skill and aim by taking into account various functions of the ball. Then the golfer can take full advantage of the ball.

FIG. 7 illustrates one exemplary label 11 to be appended to a golf instrument. The label 5 11 includes a support 12 made of paper or the like and an adhesive layer 13 on the back side of the support 12. On the front surface of the support 12 are printed or otherwise formed the sub-sections (7) together with marks (8), 10 though not shown in FIG. 7, for indicating the functions of a given golf ball as shown in FIG. 2 or FIG. 4, 5 or 6. Through the adhesive layer the label is attached to a golf instrument such as a golf ball - accommodating box as shown in 15 FIG. 1 or 3.

Another exemplary label 11 is shown in FIG. 8. The label 11 includes a support 12 made of paper or the like on which the golf

instrument performance indicating section is printed or otherwise formed as in the foregoing embodiments, though not shown in FIG. 8. The label 11 is provided with an attachment hole 14 at the top. With a thread inserted into the hole 14, the label 11 is suspended from a golf

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instrument package, typically a cage or net containing a number of golf balls.

The performance indicating section on the labels 11 shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 is the same as described for the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1 to 6 and its description is omitted herein.

Although the foregoing description refers to golf balls, the present invention is also applicable to golf clubs and other golf instruments and packages thereof.

The contour and arrangement of the section 4 and sub-sections 7 for indicating the performance of a golf ball and the display of the marks 8 for indicating various factors of a golf ball are not limited to the illustrated examples. Various modifications may be made thereto within the scope of the invention.

Since a golf ball, club or other instrument is labeled for several factors, the golfer can correctly choose the golf ball or club which matches with his or her skill and aim for allowing the golfer to take full advantage of the golf ball or club.

Japanese Utility Model Application No. 6-6528 is incorporated herein by reference.

CLAIMS:

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- 1. A golf article in the form of a golf instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or a package therefor, said article including
- a generally rectangular indication section

 (4) disposed thereon for indicating the

 performance of a golf instrument, said section

 being divided along longitudinal and transverse

 lines into a plurality of sub-sections (7), and
- at least two marks (8) formed on selected ones of the sub-sections (7) for indicating at least two functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
 - 2. The golf article of claim 1 including at least four marks (8) for indicating at least four functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
 - 3. The golf article of claim 1 wherein said sub-sections (7) are grouped into a plurality of groups each including

longitudinally or transversely adjacent subsections (7),

the sub-sections (7) in one group are provided with marks (8) belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional species,

one of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

- 4. The golf article of claim 3 including at least four marks (8) for indicating at least four functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
 - 5. The golf article of claim 2 or 4 which is a golf instrument package in the form of a box (1) for receiving golf balls, wherein

the performance indicating section 4

20 including a plurality of longitudinally and
transversely arranged sub — sections where the
marks are disposed is disposed on the outer
surface of the box (1).

6. A label (11) to be appended to a golf 25 instrument such as a golf ball and golf club or

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a package therefor, said label including

a generally rectangular indication section (4) disposed thereon for indicating the performance of the golf instrument, said section being divided along longitudinal and transverse lines into a plurality of sub-sections (7), and

at least two marks (8) formed on selected ones of the sub-sections (7) for indicating at least two functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.

- 7. The label of claim 6 including at least four marks (8) for indicating at least four functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
- 8. The label of claim 6 wherein said sub
 20 sections (7) are grouped into a plurality of
 groups each including longitudinally or
 transversely adjacent sub-sections (7),

the sub-sections (7) in one group are provided with marks (8) belonging to the same function, but indicating different functional

species,

one of the marks is selected for each group in accordance with the performance of the golf instrument.

- 9. The label of claim 8 including at least four marks (8) for indicating at least four functions selected from the group consisting of a golf instrument structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.
 - 10. The label of claim 7 or 9 wherein said golf instrument is a golf ball.
 - 11. The label of claim 7 or 9 wherein said golf instrument is a golf club.

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ABSTRACT

On a golf ball—containing package, a rectangular indication section (4) is defined for indicating the performance of a golf ball. The section (4) is divided into rows of longitudinally arranged sub—sections (7).

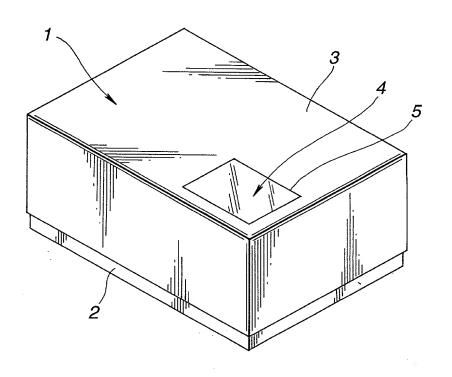
Marks (8) are formed on selected ones of the sub—sections (7) for indicating a golf ball structure, recommended head speed, feel, spin, green targeting, and trajectory.

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FIG.1



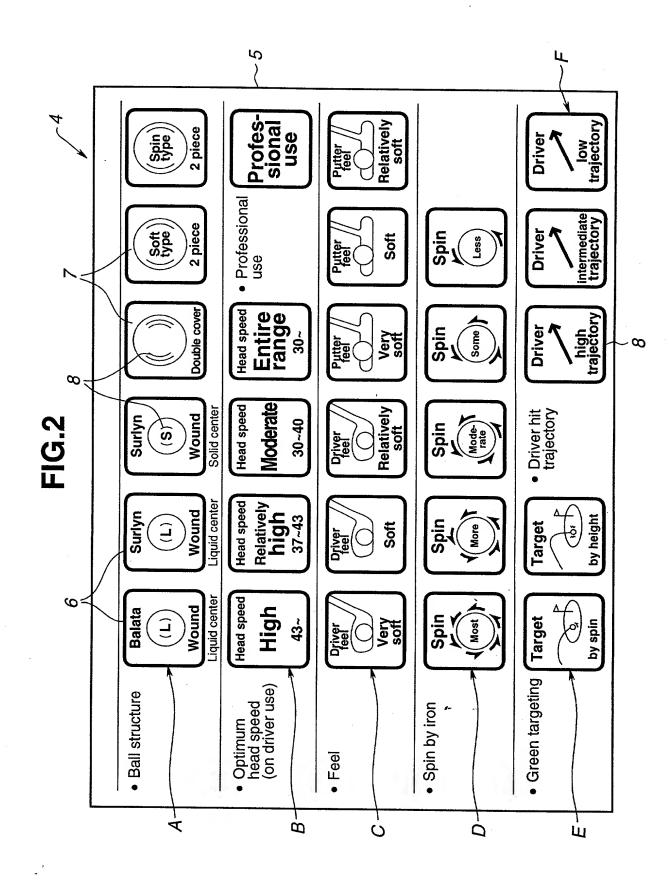


FIG.3

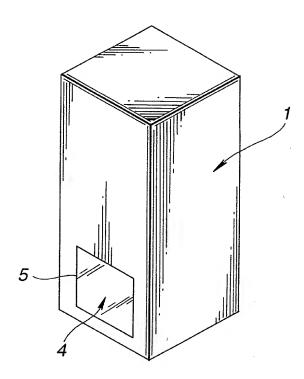


FIG.4

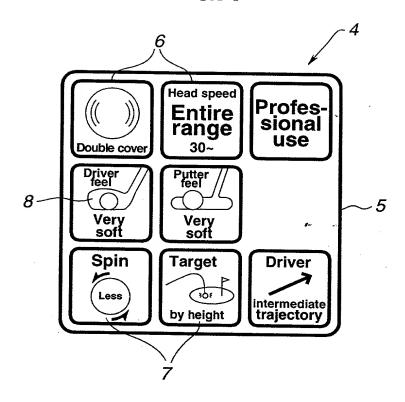


FIG.5

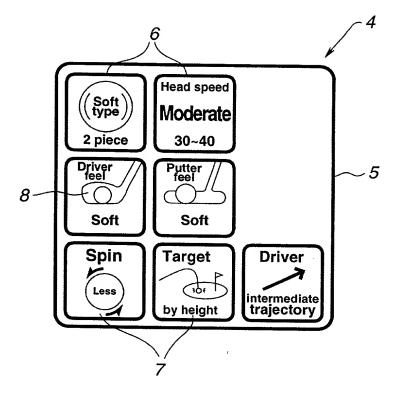


FIG.6

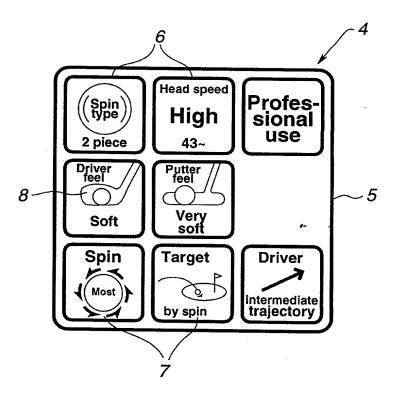


FIG.7

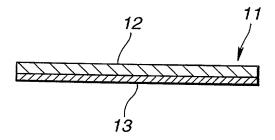
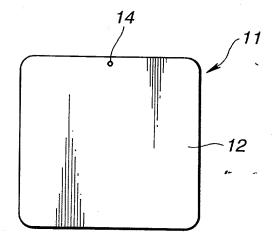


FIG.8



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: that I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled: Golf Instrument and Label to Be Appended Thereto

which application is: If the attached application (for original application)	☐ applicat	application Serial No, and amended on, and amended on					
(10) Original application)	med			and amended on			
that I have reviewed and under- claims, as amended by any amer I am aware which is material to there is a substantial likelihood (application to issue as a patent: or \$365 of any foreign application any foreign application for pat application on which priority is	stand the contents of adment referred to abthe examination of the chat a reasonable Examination for the form of the conference of the conf	ove: that I acknowled is application under 3' miner would consider eign priority benefits u entor's certificate liste	te above-identified a lge my duty to discle 7 C.F.R. 1.56(a), i.e. it important in deci- ander Title 35, United to below and have a	application, including the ose information of which, such information where ding whether to allow the cd States Code §119, §172 also identified on said list			
Application Number	Country	ntry Filing Date		Priority Claimed (yes or no)			
6-6528	Japan	an May 16, 1994		Yes			
I hereby claim the benefit of Tinsofar as the subject matter of application in the manner provide to disclose any material informapplication and the national or	each of the claims of the death of the first paragnation under 37 C.F.	of this application is recapt of Title 35, Unite R. 1.56(a) which occ	not disclosed in a list of States Code, §112 oursed between the	sted prior United States			
Application Serial No.	Fil	ing Date	f==44.3	Status			
			(patentea,	pending, abandoned)			
		10,					
I hereby appoint John H. Mion, Robert J. Seas, Jr., Reg. No. 21, Reg. No. 24,513; J. Frank Osha, 19,093; Louis Gubinsky, Reg. No. Reg. No. 26,916; Joseph J. Ruck No. 29,710; Howard L. Bernstein Gordon Kit, Reg. No. 30,764; Suprosecute this application and request that all correspondence 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.	Joy2; Darryl Mexic, R. Reg. No. 24,625; Wad. 24,635; Neil B. Siege J. Jr., Reg. No. 26,577, Reg. No. 25,665; Alasan J. Mack, Reg. Noto transact all busines about the application J., Washington, D.C. 2	eg. No. 23,063; Rober idell A. Biggart, Reg. I, Reg. No. 25,200; Dav ; Sheldon I. Landsman J. Kasper, Reg. No. 20, 30,951; and Frank Less in the Patent and the addressed to SUGH 20037.	t V. Sloan, Reg. No. No. 24,861; Robert vid J. Cushing, Reg. n, Reg. No. 25,430; 25,426; Kenneth J. B. Bernstein, Reg. No. Trademark Office of IRUE, MION, ZIN	o. 22,775; Peter D. Olexy, G. McMorrow, Reg. No. No. 28,703; John R. Inge, Richard C. Turner, Reg. urchfiel, Reg. No. 31,333; o. 31,484; my attorneys to connected therewith, and N, MACPEAK & SEAS,			
I hereby declare that all stater information and belief are believ false statements and the like so the United States Code and that issuing thereon.	ed to be true; and furt made are punishable l	her that these statements fine or imprisonment	nts were made with t	he knowledge that willful ection 1001 of Title 18 of			
Date November 1, 1994	First Inventor	Shinichi		Oshima			
		First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name			
Residence Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	O, Signature	Shinichi C	shima				
Japan	Post Office Addre	c/o Pridrestone Courte Co. Itd. 15					
Citizenship Japanese		Higashimatsushita-cho, Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, - Tokyo, Japan					
Data	Canada Y.						
Date	Second Inventor_	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name			
Residence	Signature			•			
	Post Office Addre						
Citizenshin	ros. Office Flagre						
1 UEZEDSD1D							

Assignment

Whereas, I/We,	Shini	chi Oshima	-		of
Chiyoda-ku, Tol	kyo, Japan				
hereinafter called a	ssignor(s), ha	ve invented cer	tain improveme	nts in	
Go1:	f Instrumer	nt and Label	to Be Append	ded Thereto	
and executed an		for Letters Pater 1, 19		ited States of	America therefor on FILED
	`				NOV - 9 1991
Whereas,	Bridgestone 45, Higash	e Sports Co. imatsushita-	, Ltd., of cho, Kanda,	Chiyoda-ku,	Tokyo, Japan
(assignee), desires	to acquire the	entire right, titl	e, and interest i	n the applicatior	n and invention, and to
any United States	patents to be	obtained therefo	or;		
Now therefore,	for valuable of	consideration, re	eceipt whereof is	s hereby acknow	wledged,
I/We, the above	named assig	nor(s), hereby se	II, assign and tra	ansfer to the abo	ve named assignee, its
successors and ass	signs, the enti	re right, title and	I interest in the a	application and t	the invention disclosed
therein for the Unit	ed States of A	merica, includir	ng the right to cl	aim priority und	er 35 U.S.C. §119, and
I/we request the Co	mmissioner o	Patents to issue	any Letters Pat	ent granted upor	n the invention set forth
in the application	the assigne	ee, its successo	rs and assigns;	; and I/we will e	execute without further
consideration all pa	oers deemed r	ecessary by the	assignee in conr	nection with the U	Inited States application
when called upon	to do so by th	ne assignee.			
I/We hereby at	thorize and r	equest my attor	neys SUGHRUE	E, MION, ZINN,	MACPEAK & SEAS of
2100 Pennsylvania	Avenue, N.W.,	Washington, D.0	C. 20037-3202 to	insert here in pa	arentheses (Application
number		, filed) the filing	date and application
number of said ap	plication wher	n known.		•	
**		<i>a</i> :	,		
Date: Nov. 1,	1994 s/_	Shinic	chi Oshin	na	
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Date: